

Message Text

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TAGS: CGEN, BGEN, CASC, UR, US (CRAWFORD, FRANCIS JAY)
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD TRIAL: DAY TWO

REF: MOSCOW 21239

SUMMARY: CRAWFORD TRIAL CONCLUDED AT 2000 LOCAL TIME WITH THE COMPLETION OF ALL EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY. A VERDICT WILL BE DELIVERED SEPTEMBER 7. DURING HIS SUMMATION, PROCURATOR ASKED FOR A FIVE YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR CRAWFORD, PARTIALLY IN LIGHT OF "SOVIET-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS." HE ALSO ASKED FOR SENTENCES TOTALLING TWELVE YEARS FOR KISELEV (5 YEARS IF TO RUN CONCURRENTLY) AND A FOUR YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR KISELEVA. DURING HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS, CRAWFORD REQUESTED THAT THE COURT REJECT THE QUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM AND ACQUIT HIM OF ALL CHARGES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS DEVELOPMENTS: PRESS COUNSELOR MADE A REPRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 5 TO THE PRESS DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGARDING THE LIMITED

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COURTROOM ACCESS AFFORDED AMERICAN REPORTERS. FOMINOFF PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. AT SECOND DAY OF TRIAL ONLY FOUR AMERICAN REPORTERS WERE ALLOWED INTO MORNING SESSION. HOWEVER, AS SESSION DRAGGED INTO THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING, MORE REPORTERS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COURT ROOM.

2. BOTH CRAWFORD AND HIS LAWYER, POPOV, MANAGED TO MAKE TELLING POINTS AGAINST THE PROSECUTION'S CASE WHICH, POPOV NOTED, RESTED ON SHAKY EVIDENCE AND QUESTIONABLE WITNESSES. CRAWFORD SUPPORTED THESE CONTENTIONS IN HIS OWN CLOSING ARGUMENT NOTING THAT FOREIGNERS LIVE IN A "DIFFERENT WORLD IN MOSCOW"; A WORLD OF VALUTA, D-COUPONS AND TRAVELER'S CHECKS. IT APPEARED TO WESTERN REPORTERS PRESENT THAT CRAWFORD CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH CONSIDERABLE COURAGE, AND DID FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE PROSECUTION'S WEAK CASE AGAINST HIM.

3. AT CLOSE OF PROCEEDING, JUDGE SAID THAT A VERDICT WOULD BE DELIVERED "NO EARLIER THAN 1300 HOURS" TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 7). WHILE CRAWFORD HOPES FOR DISMISSAL OR ACQUITAL, MAGGS EXPECTS THAT THIS TRIAL WILL NOT "MAKE SOVIET JUDICIAL HISTORY," AND THAT CRAWFORD WILL RECEIVE A THREE YEAR SUSPENDED SENTENCE. EMBASSY OBSERVERS TEND TO ACCEPT THIS PREDICTION. TOON

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